

Subby  
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A5

Preliminary Amendment  
PCT/IE00/00084  
Attorney Docket Q67954

comprises a receiving area for receiving a data carrier, and the interface means (2,3) is located in or adjacent the receiving area, the method comprising the steps of inserting a carrier means (5) having a cleaning means (6) mounted thereon into the receiving area of the read and/or write unit with the cleaning means (6) aligned with the interface means (2,3) when the carrier means (5) is engaged in the receiving area, and activating the read and/or write unit for causing the interface means (2,3) to move relative into and out of the cleaning means (6) for identifying data for cleaning the interface means (2,3).--

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**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please delete the title after the heading "ABSTRACT" and delete the improper second paragraph of the Abstract containing the parenthetical phrase "(Figs. 1 and 3 to accompany the abstract)".